(b) High priority continues to be accorded to the development of agriculture. As indicated above, the allocation for agriculture has gone up from the level of Rs. 354.33 crores in the First Five Year Plan to Rs. 10573.62 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The allocations are made on the basis of resource availability. The pattern of resource allocation in the Seventh Plan is designed to ensure that the country would remain self-sufficient in food through all-round development of agriculture. Increased emphasis has also been placed on investments in infrastructure sectors like power, transport and coal in the Plan so that agriculture and industry may grow faster.

**Allotment of plots, etc. in lieu of acquired land by the DDA**

2049. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Navbharat Times of of January 9, 1987, to the effect that the D.D.A. had decided that the developed residential plots measuring 40 to 400 square yards and 25 per cent of D.D.A. shops and preference for service in the D.D.A. to their relatives, would be given to the farmers whose land would be acquired, in addition to the allotment of 250 square yards of an industrial plot for those whose land acquired would be more than one hectare and that furthermore all landless labour dependent only on agriculture and rendered unemployed due to land-acquisition would be given 40 square yards of residential plot each; and

(b) if so, the date on which such a decision was taken and what has been the progress in its implementation till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) D.D.A. passed a resolution to this effect on 3-9-84. The Delhi Administration accepted the suggestions made by the D.D.A. with certain modifications. and is presently reviewing all the cases.

**Installed capacity of Sugar factories**

2050. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 418 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th February, 1987 and state:

(a) whether any survey has been made by Government to know the percentage by which the existing sugar factories in the country in the public and private sectors are operating below their installed capacity due to non-availabilty of sugarcane;

(b) if so, what are the findings thereof stating the extent of average seasonal losses suffered by these units as a consequence thereof; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to ensure the availability of the required sugarcane quantity by the new sugar factories to make them economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Capacity utlisation depends on various factors such as adequate availability of sugarcane, condition of plant and machinery, quality of man-power, efficiency of management, timely payment of sugarcane price etc. As such, it is difficult to quantify the underutilization of capacity due to non-avaliability of sugarcane, and no such survey nas been made by Government.

(c) To ensure adequate quantity of sugarcane for the new as well as existing units the following measures have been taken:

(i) No licence would normally be granted for the establishment of new sugar factories within a radius of 40 Kms of an existing unit;

(ii) The State Governments are required to clearly demarcate reserved areas for each existing sugar factory as well as proposed new factory; and

(iii) The basic criterion for the establishment of a new sugar factory would be abundant availability of sugarcane in a compact area around the proposed factory site. Potential for further cane development would be an additional factor.

**Soil erosion**

2051. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing a major problem regarding the erosion of top soil so much so that more than half of the country's land is affected by soil erosion;

(b) if so, what according to the study, if any, made is the annual percentage of soil erosion in the country and what is the percentage of soil which is permanently lost to sea or otherwise;

(c) what percentage of the total irrigated land in the country is lost annually due to water logging and salinity etc; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government so far to develop the technology and to transfer it to the fields to check the process of soil erosion in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) It is estimated that about 175 million ha. comprising 53.2 per cent of the country's geographical area of 329 million ha. is subject to soil erosion and different types of land degradation such as water logging, alkalinity, salinity, gullies and ravines, shifting cultivation, etc.

(b) Detailed assessment has not been carried out to determine the annual percentage of soil erosion in the country. However, estimates indicate that about 6000 million tonnes of soil are lost annually due to soil eroson.

(c) Water logging is caused by conditions such as periodical flooding, over-flow by runoff, over irrigation, seepage, artisan water and lack of sub-surface drainage, etc. In course of time some of these lands turn saline or alkaline thereby reducing production potential of land under cultivation. However, estimates of percentages or irrigated land lost due to water logging and salinity etc. have not been made.

(d) The technology for preventing soil erosion is being developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research through its various Research Centres and Operational Research Projects located in different parts of the country. The appropriate technologies developed through research are being transferred to the field through Centre and State Sector programmes of soil and water conservation which are being implemented since the First Five Year Plan. The technology comprise of both engineering and vegetative measures. They mainly consist of bunding, terracing land levelling and shaping, construction of water harvesting structures, control of gullies, reclamation of revaines, reclamation of saline and alkali soils, improved cropping patterns, afforestation, grass land development, etc. depending upon the kind of problem of different types of land.